

Remarks/Arguments

Reconsideration of this application is requested.

Claim Status

Claims 12-23 were previously presented. Claims 12-15, 17-19 and 23 are canceled, and claims 16, 20 and 22 are amended. Claims 16 and 20-22 are now pending.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 19-22 are indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, claim 16 has been rewritten to include the limitations of claim 19, and claim 19 is canceled. Claims 20 and 22 are rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of claim 16. Claim 21 depends from claim 20. Thus, applicant submits that claims 16 and 20-22 are now in allowable form.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 102 and 103

Claims 12, 15-18 and 23 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Yamanaka (US 5,998,862). Claims 13 and 14 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over Yamanaka in view of Zu et al. (US 6,594,153). In response, claims 12-15, 17, 18 and 23 are canceled, without prejudice. Claim 16 has been amended into allowable form, as discussed above.

Claim Objections

The action objected to claim 19 as depending from claim 18 rather than from claim 16. Applicant assumes this objection was made because “the third opening” in claim 19 lacked antecedent support. The objection is moot in view of the amendment to claim 16, which incorporates the allowable subject matter from claim 19. The objection to claim 23 is moot in view of its cancellation.

Conclusion

This application is now in condition for allowance. The foregoing amendments comply with requirements of form only and thus are admissible under 37 CFR 1.116(b). The Examiner is urged to telephone the undersigned if any issues


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remain after entry of this amendment. Any fees due with this response may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,
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